

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-21 are pending in the application. Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 15-21 are rejected, and claims 8 and 14 are objected to. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd par., as indefinite. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendment to claim 21 set forth above.

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 15-16 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gulick (U.S. 6,195,749).

The Applicant respectfully submits that the asserted rejection cannot be sustained for at least the reason that the cited reference fails to suggest RAM separate from main memory and accessible to a CPU for use as a stack during BIOS processing, where the RAM is accessible for this use at a range of address space beyond a main memory range. Each of independent claims 1, 9, 15 and 20 recites the latter feature, in varying forms.

Gulick is silent as to the noted recitation. Gulick only mentions "memory locations of buffer memory 200 ... assigned specific addresses *within* system memory address space" (col. 4, lines 9-12) (emphasis added). Accordingly, independent claims 1, 9, 15 and 20 are allowable over Gulick. Moreover, dependent claims 2-4, 7, 10, 11 and 16 are likewise allowable over Gulick for at least the reason that they include the recitations of one of the independent claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, 15-16 and 20 as anticipated by Gulick is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 12, 13, 17 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gulick in view of Yamazaki et al. (US 6,038,632). Of these claims, claims 5, 12, 17 and 21 remain pending. Each of dependent claims 5, 12, 17 and 21 includes the recitations of one of independent claims 1, 9, 15 or 20 by dependency thereon. Independent claims 1, 9, 15 and 20 have been demonstrated in the foregoing to be allowable over Gulick, and Yamazaki et al. does not remedy the deficiencies in Gulick with respect to these independent claims. For example, Yamazaki et al. is similarly silent as to RAM separate from main memory and accessible to a CPU for use

as a stack during BIOS processing, where the RAM is accessible for this use at a range of address space beyond a main memory range.

Note is taken of the Examiner's comments regarding "top of memory" as originally recited in canceled claim 13. Specifically, the Examiner contends that "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to map the range of address space above top of memory ..." (Office Action, page 6, lines 13-15). The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As noted earlier, Gulick actually teaches away from this: "In one embodiment, memory locations of buffer memory 200 are assigned specific addresses *within* system memory address space" (Gulick, col. 4, lines 8-12) (emphasis added). That Gulick does not contemplate using address space beyond a main memory range is further borne out, for example, at col. 4, lines 15-19: "*Memory access controller* 190 of FIG. 3 responds to the specific address corresponding to a specific location in buffer memory 200, by latching the address and allowing the read or write cycle to be executed on the buffer memory 200" (emphasis added). In other words, a device configured to access main memory (memory access controller 190) is similarly used to access the buffer memory in Gulick. Accordingly, addressing a range above top of memory is anything but obvious in light of the prior art.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 9, 15 and 20 are allowable over the combination of Gulick and Yamazaki et al. Consequently, dependent claims 5, 12, 17 and 21 are similarly allowable over Gulick and Yamazaki et al. for at least the reasons discussed in connection with independent claims 1, 9, 15 and 20. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 12, 17 and 21 as being unpatentable over Gulick and Yamazaki et al. is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gulick. Independent claim 18 recites, among other things, "an address decoder configured to decode addresses asserted by said CPU addressing said RAM, said addresses in a range of address space beyond a main memory range."

Along lines discussed above, dependent claim 6 includes the recitations of independent claim 1, and dependent claim 19 includes the recitations of independent claim 18. Gulick fails to suggest addressing a range of address space beyond a main memory range, as required by independent claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, claims 1 and

18 are allowable over Gulick, and therefore claims 6 and 19 are allowable over Gulick for at least the reasons discussed in connection with claims 1 and 18. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 18 and 19 as unpatentable over Gulick is therefore respectfully requested.

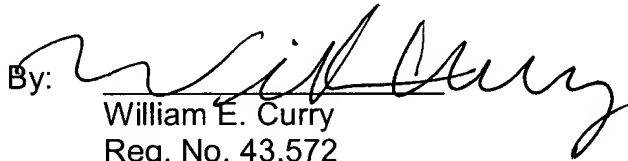
Claims 8 and 14 were objected to, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 8 and 14 have been so rewritten, and are allowable. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 8 and 14 is therefore respectfully requested.

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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